

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

## Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tuesday, May 15. 1705.

**H**AVING been a little Insulted last Paper, with the Boasts of a Party, that notwithstanding all that has been said, done, and written, the People of *England*, the *Tackers*, and their Brethren, will be Chosen again; that of the first Ten-Elected already, Five of them are *Tackers*, and the like; I could not refrain giving the just Scheme of the Consequences of such a Case, in which, I think, I have Discharged that part which becomes every *English* Man, of doing what in him lies, to prevent the Ruine of his Country.

But not too far to yield up a Point *not yet lost*, Surrender the Fort before it is Attack'd, and give up a beg'd Question, as soon as it is ask'd, let me return upon the Gentlemen with another Question:

*Pray, Gentlemen, What if you should be mistaken? What if all this Rhodomontade, like the Project of Tacking it self, should Vanish and be lost; and that when the Sum is Call'd up, the New Members Elected and Return'd, you should upon a Scrutiny find that not half of the Number should be Chosen?*

And for a Specimen of this, I refer you to the County of *Kent*; in all which large County, we have not one *Tacker*, or *Sneaker*, can get in; and those that have attempted it, have been hiss'd off of the Place, with the utmost Contempt, both them and their Adherents;

a particular Instance of the Sense, Courage, and Fidelity of the Inhabitants of that Populous Wealthy County, and in which they have set a Noble Example to the whole Nation.

As I have freely told my Thoughts on the other Occasion, and what I take to be the Consequence of a House of *Tackers*, *Vice Versa*, let me take the Freedom to give my Thoughts of you and your Project, as it will lie before us, and be handed on to future Ages, if this should happen.

1. You are then Effectually Branded as Persons, who having been once Truſted with the Liberties of your Dear Country, behav'd yourselves so, that they thought you by no means fit to be Truſted again.

2. The Country will appear Convint'd of what Her Majesty told them, *viz.* the Narrow Escape they have made from the Dangerous Experiment you put upon the Nation.

3. The Privileges of the Peers stand Doubly Confirm'd by their Ancient Right, and the Peoples Concurrence, and Tacking of Bills Eternally Damn'd by this Noble Precedent; so that being once Declar'd Illegal, rejected by a standing Order of the House, and approv'd by the People, it may come to be Disclaim'd in Parliament, and the Door shut Effectually against any such future Shakings in the Constitution.

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4. The Nation will thereby give a Double Sanction to all Her Majesty's Gracious Invitations to Peace.

1. By letting Her Majesty see their real Inclination to it. And,

2. By Discarding those that before attempted to Interrupt it.

And after all we shall be the most beholden to those Gentlemen, call'd the 134, of any Men in their Station of a long while, for pushing at this matter with so much Impolicy and Blindness, just at their going Home; by which they so far have Opened the Eyes of the Nation, as to have many of their own Hot Party bethink themselves, and abandon a Party so Exceedingly Mistaken, and to move the whole Kingdom to reject them in future Elections.

'Tis plain, they have done their own Work themselves, and they could Expect no other.

And now, Gentlemen, I must tell you, That there remains but the Suspence a few Days, that the Nation may see what they are to Expect, and how many of your Number are return'd with Power to make a second Attempt; and beforehand, I venture to assure you, many of you will be laid by ——— Some, indeed, are making Shifts, and securing Burroughs, lest they should lose it in the Counties; there are Variety of Instances. In the next place, 'tis a Melancholy Reflection for you already, to see that some Eminent Tacklers, push themselves in, where they are fain to Attempt the Displacing others, their Brethren Tacklers, to make room for them, as the People of Oxford very well know, and Sir H ——— M ———, being the first Instance, finds by Experience.

From this Shifting, making Reserves, Heaving and Thrusting, let me tell you, Gentlemen of the 134, I pretend, without any Gift of Prophecy, to foretell, you will be very far from being all Chosen; and if it should so fall out, that not above half of you should get in; If you could not carry your Cause before, what will you do now? Had you not better have let this Foolish Attempt alone? Even your *Occasional Bill*, had you carry'd it, would not have Answer'd your End; and I can very hardly be perswaded, you ever Desir'd to have it; if you had, you would have taken it the first time it was brought in, when the Amendments were such, as you would very willingly have accepted of since; and which, if you had Accepted of, you had never had Occasion for this Prepos-

terous Attempt. See how Frail, and Short-sighted, even the Wisest Men are; and that even Parliaments, and Representing Collections of Men, are subject to Error, Folly, and Mistake ———

How much better had this Tacking Folly have been let alone? How had all this Clamour been stop'd, and we had had no Men to single out to Warn the Freeholders against; we had never taken the Alarm at your Mischievous Designs, which to the Nations Benefit, I doubt not you foolishly Discover'd.

Upon the Whole; if on this New Election, you are left out, that is, most of you, for some will get in, no doubt, you that are Rejected, may see this Nation is not to be Fool-Ridden; when you have any Dangerous Experiments to make again, you would do well to lay them a little Closer, and Cover the Hook better; let not the Design be so plain, and the Conduct so Course; the People of England may be Wheedled into their Ruine, and as they are more Famous for Honesty than Penetration, may be Drawn in to be Agents to unforeseen Mischiefs; but to be Driven Headlong, and forc'd at once into Gulphs of Destruction, with their Eyes open, is not the way.

This was the only Error of the late Reign of King James, I mean as to himself, had he been Content with large Concessions, and Step by Step proceeded in the Design of Demolishing our Liberties, there were some Gentlemen forward enough, to have given up their Neighbours to Destruction, but in pushing for an Immediate Revolution of the Articles both of Religion and Liberty, into Bondage and Popery, he lost even that probability he had of Success. Thus had you been Content with the *Occasional Bill* merely as such, Gentlemen, you had had it; the Lords Agreed with you, the Practice ought to be restrain'd as Unjustifiable; nay, and their Lordships went farther with you than upon second Thoughts, perhaps, they would have been pleas'd with.

But here you very justly obtain'd the Scandal of Immoderate Principles, since you plainly Discover'd your Aim run higher; that the bare restraining *Occasional Conformity*, was not the thing, but all the *Arcane's* of Persecution and Anti-Toleration, appear'd Couch'd in your Design, and this Overthrew your good Bill.

This may serve for an Answer to that part of a Passionate Author's Quarrel at the *Review*, Numb. 5, where he is pleas'd to say, this is a

Bill



Bill only to secure the Church; If your Bill had been *Only to prevent most Abominable Hypocrites, and Declar'd Enemies to the Church, from getting by Villanous Means, Excellent Language to supply Argument, such a Power as might Endanger the Church.* If, I say, this had been the only End, and it had been only to secure the Church, the Lords offer'd it, their Amendments Declare they were Content with all reasonable Security for the Church; but because their Lordships, the Heads of the Church, Concurring, were not willing to renew Persecution, fly in the Face of the Queen's Promise, and Dissolve the Toleration, therefore you were resolv'd to have all or none, and let your Bill fall.

Now, pray Gentlemen, who is to be Charg'd here with Exposing the Church? Let us join Issue upon this Point.

Either the Church was in Danger from the *Occasional Conformity* of the *Dissenters*, or she was not.

If the Church was not in Danger, then your Bill has no Foundation.

If it was in Danger, then you are the Men that neglected the Church, and left her Exposed to the Danger there was, when you might have had the Bill, to have suppress'd this Dangerous Practice, as you call it, but would not accept of it, unless Clog'd with such Circumstances, as no Considering Churchman, no House of Lords, no Christian Prince can grant.

So that, in short, 'tis apparent, this *Occasional Bill*, is a Handle only, 'tis a Specious Outside to a State Intrigue, a Gilded Pill full of Poison, and Conceal'd Dangers, which our Prudent Governours finding out, blew up your Mine, and now you cry out, *A Fanatick Plot*, call your own Clergy and Bishops *Presbyterians*, and make a great Outcry of the Danger of the Church, when really, Gentlemen, all in your Bill that was for the Security of the Church,

was offered you, and without the Grant of the more Essential part of your Design, viz. *Oppression and Persecution*, all the Danger the Church was in, could not prevail upon you, to accept of one without the other.

*Where's all your Care for the Church in this?* What's become of the Preamble to your first *Occasional Bill*? And what Account can you give, why that short Declaration against Persecution, was left out of the Second?

If the Church of England can be only preserv'd by Persecution; then, Gentlemen, she can only be preserv'd by that which is against her own Principles.

Your first *Occasional Bill* had these Words in the Preamble: *Whereas Persecution for Conscience sake, is contrary to the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Doctrine of the Church of England.*

The Conferences of the Lords, on that Head, make this Matter very plain; Their Lordships offer'd the Bill against *Occasional Conformity* as such, *There the Church might have been secur'd against Hypocrites, as you call them*, but they Declare other parts of it to be meer Persecution, which (by the Preamble) was Voted contrary to the Principles of the *Christian Religion*, and therefore they could not pass it without Amendments——This, Gentlemen, you would not quit, and so your Bill fell; and the Question between the Houses, seems to stand thus.

*Shall a Bill be pass'd, that is against the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Doctrine of the Church of England, or shall it not?*

*Yeas* the House of C——s,

*Nays* the House of L——s.

This is the fair State of the Case, and it lay so Directly against the Thing, and Pinch'd so hard, that the next Session the Gentlemen thought fit to leave the Preamble out; of which by it self.

## From the Society of the Scandal. C L U B.

THE Author of this Paper, finding the Publick and more Weighty Subject he is now upon, is more than sufficient to take up all the room, both in his Serious Thoughts, and in the Paper it self, had on that account for some time past, thought fit to Adjourn the Diverting Part, till those more Valuable Matters were something over.

But finding the Multitude and Variety of Things before him, not less pressing now than ever, and the Brevity of the Paper not giving any tolerable Dispatch, he has resolv'd, for the future, to leave quite out the said part, call'd, Advice from the Scandal. Club.



If those Gentlemen, who do not love to read a long Story, shall think it too Grave on this Question, he gives them Notice, That he shall study to make it as Entertaining as he can, and at least, Hopes that its Usefulness may recommend it to their Patience; and tho' the History may be more, and the Entertainment less, such Readers may be found, whose Judgment will lead them to bear with the Length of it.


At the same time, because he is willing to oblige those Gentlemen who have thought him Capable to Resolve their Doubts, and to Reprove the Vices and Scandalous Practices of this Age, he gives Notice, That the Scandal. Club, who are now as really a Society, as before they were not, will Publish their Proceedings in a Paper by it self, every Wednesday and Friday; in which, perhaps, the Readers may be more oblig'd both as to Profit and Delight, than they were before.

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